



THE CITIZENS FOUNDATION, USA

Reflections 2020: A Year to Remember Winter 2020 Newsletter



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From the Desk of Fakhia Rashid



Dear Friends,

2020 is unlike any other year that we have seen before. Today, as I write this message to reflect on this historic year, I would like to thank you ALL for your steadfast support that has strengthened our spirits and capacity to serve the underprivileged children across Pakistan.

Since the start of the pandemic, at TCF our first priority has been to ensure safety of our students, teams, and families. TCF responded to the crisis through targeted initiatives ranging from providing essential relief to 45,500+ families, delivering 20,000 PPE kits to hospitals to ensuring that learning continued for millions of

Sabrina Siddiqui Political Reporter/ CNN Analyst Joins as TCF Ambassador



We are thrilled to have acclaimed US journalist Sabrina Siddiqui endorse TCF's campaign to educate and empower girls, and are thankful for her participation in global events as a TCF Campaign Ambassador. Sabrina is a national politics reporter at Wall Street Journal and a political analyst at CNN. She previously reported on national politics at the Guardian, HuffPost and Bloomberg News. Sabrina has covered presidential elections

students. Education emergency created by the pandemic continues to intensify. According to UNESCO, about 11 million girls may never return to school. This alarming figure not only threatens decades of progress made towards gender equality but also puts girls at greater risk of being forced into early marriages, child labor or care-giving responsibilities.

We strongly believe that girls' education is the key to empowerment. TCF faculty is actively engaged with parents, offering flexible school hours, scholarships and fee concessions to ensure that girls return to school.

Special thanks to our 350+ chapter members & volunteers who stepped up to the challenges of this year by helping us fundraise despite all odds and organized many successful virtual events. I am pleased to inform you that for the **6th consecutive year, TCF-USA earned a 4-star rating** — the highest possible — from Charity Navigator for our “sound fiscal management” and “commitment to accountability and transparency.” I invite you to view our [Annual Report](#) and [Financials](#) to see all the impact we are making together.

The crisis is far from over and although it will take time to return to a sense of normalcy, I am certain that together we will continue to make positive and lasting change in the lives of underprivileged children we serve.

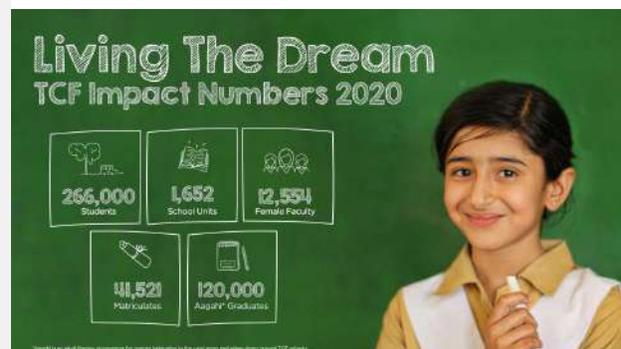
These are extraordinary times. Thank you for standing by us!

Fakhia Rashid,
Chief Operating Officer,
The Citizens Foundation, USA

in 2012, 2016 and 2020. Sabrina shares:

" It is an honor to work with TCF on expanding education in Pakistan, a cause that is of utmost priority when seeking to eradicate inequality and lifting underserved communities out of poverty. I am heartened that organizations like TCF have been dedicating resources toward meeting the long-term challenges of the current pandemic — whether by fighting to keep girls in school through the Keep Her Dreams Alive campaign or by providing critical Covid-19 relief to families designed to ensure continuity in learning. The pandemic is not simply a global health crisis. It is an educational crisis that in developing nations like Pakistan has already threatened to set back years' worth of progress toward learning." [Read her complete article.](#)

[Click here to listen to Sabrina at our global Webinar on November 29, 2020.](#)



Keep Her Dreams Alive!



Educate a Girl

Samaarah to Bike for Girls' Education

Samaarah Siddiqui, a 12 year old from San Jose will be cycling 50 miles for the very first time in her life on January 16, 2021 to raise money for TCF's underprivileged students.

"I've always enjoyed biking, but during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become something

that I've started to love even more! I recently decided to ride 50 miles (something I've never done before) and raise money for children's education in Pakistan."



The proceeds from her personal fundraiser titled 'Go Samo Go' (Samo - the name she goes by among family and friends) will be donated to The Citizens Foundation, USA to help TCF girl students get back to school and keep their dreams alive. Siddiqui, along with her father will be biking on a local trail. [Visit her campaign page.](#)

You can also create your personal fundraiser this holiday season by clicking below:

[Fundraise for TCF-USA](#)

TCF Alumni - Future of the Movement



TCF-USA's SF Bay Area Chapter hosted a virtual informational event 'TCF Alumni Rising Above Barriers' on November 21, 2020. The event aimed at recognizing the successes of TCF alumni as well as highlighting the role of TCF in transforming lives of its students beyond school years.

TCF's Executive VP Outcomes, Riaz Kamlani shared details of TCF's programs that support its graduates gain higher education such as Alumni Outreach Campaign, TCF College and Alumni Development Program (ADP). While talking about the ADP program, he mentioned Nadeem Hussain, TCF's alumnus and the architect of the program who studied at Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and paved way for his juniors to follow suit.

Asad Sajid, a beneficiary of the ADP program, who graduated from IBA and is now a software engineer at Afiniti, also joined the event to share his journey of prevailing over challenges with TCF's support.

The event also showcased the story of Sabahat Kashif, TCF alumna who is currently pursuing her dreams at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). Moreover, as Riaz Kamlani said, "TCF alumni are the future owners of the movement." They are not only building a better future for themselves but are also giving back to their country. TCF's alumni played an instrumental role in TCF's COVID appeal and helped reach 250 vulnerable communities with essential relief all over Pakistan.

[Watch the complete event](#)

Pakistan's Experts Discuss Education in Times of COVID-19 and Beyond



Dr. Adil Najam

TCF-USA Director &
Dean Pardee School of
Global Studies, Boston University

Khadija Bakhtiar

CEO & Founder
Teach For Pakistan

Dr. Faisal Bari

Interim Dean
School of Education, LUMS

Riaz Kamlani

EVP Outcomes
The Citizens Foundation (TCF)

TCF hosted a panel discussion about the impact of the pandemic on education in Pakistan on November 29, 2020. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Adil Najam, Dean of Global Studies, Boston University and three leading experts from the education sector, Dr. Faisal Bari, Interim Dean, School of Education LUMS, Khadija Bakhtiar, CEO & Founder, Teach for Pakistan and Riaz Kamlani, EVP Outcomes, TCF joined as panelists.

The discussion explored issues such as teachers' training, learning loss, resource allocation, examination reforms, community integration and mobilization, distance learning through mass media and language of instruction amid others. The panelists agreed that the spotlight issue of digital divide is only a small part of a bigger problem. "With 90 percent of our children studying in public or low fee schools" access to technology alone won't make a difference unless huge gaps in the infrastructure and quality of the education system are fixed, shared Kamlani.

Dr. Bari also underlined the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on girl students and how measures must be taken to bring them back to school once lockdown ends. Bakhtiar stressed upon empowering school principals. "Principals see the needs of children and the challenges their teachers face, but they don't have power in the system to make small changes." All panelists insisted that Pakistani nation should focus on covering the learning loss of students rather than just passing them to the next grade. They mutually concluded that clarity of purpose is required to recover from the damage done.

[Watch the complete discussion](#)

2020: Year of Virtual Events



Despite unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic, it turned out to be a wonderful fall season for TCF-USA. With 10 successful virtual events hosted by TCF-USA Chapters, last quarter of 2020 was all about celebrating milestones and achievements, spreading joy and laughter, keeping alive the tradition of annual galas and most importantly staying connected.

Going virtual for the very first time, the outcomes seemed uncertain, but with the active participation of over 2800+ supporters it was a feat well accomplished. Moreover, presence of acclaimed personalities and celebrities such as Dr. Faisal Bari, Dr. Adil Najam, Amjad Islam Amjad, Marina Khan, Shoaib Akhtar, Faiza Saleem, Ali Sethi, Ali Noor, Khadija Bakhtiar and Sidra Iqbal added a unique flavor to each event.

Our Volunteers Honor the TCF Mission with Creative Productions of their own! Enjoy!



Shop for a Cause

As you shop on Amazon during the holiday season, make sure you choose The Citizens Foundation, USA as your favorite charity on AmazonSmile.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to TCF-USA and it won't cost you anything!

You can **MAKE TCF SMILE!**



STEP 1: Go to smile.amazon.com

STEP 2: Select The Citizens Foundation, USA as your charity

STEP 3: Start shopping!

(0.5% of your AmazonSmile purchases will go to TCF-USA)

With every purchase, you can help vulnerable girls get quality education and keep their dreams alive!

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